Upgraded landing facilities at Airports

*293. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the landing aids at various airports are being upgraded to facilitate landing of aircraft in poor visibility conditions due to fog etc.,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that training the pilots and getting the aircraft compatible to the new generation landing systems involve huge investments and many airlines prefer changing their flight schedules rather than train pilots to sue them; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken to coordinate with various airlines for more pilots using the available systems to improve operational efficiencies during dense fog etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans to upgrade the Instrument Landing System (ILS) at Delhi, Kolkata and Lucknow airports. At Delhi Airport, Cat-IIIA ILS is being upgraded to Cat-IIIB and installation of Advance Surface Movement and Guidance Control System is planned in order to facilitate landing of aircraft in visibility range of 200 meters to 50 meters. At Kolkata and Lucknow airports, the Cat-I ILS is being upgraded to Cat-II.

(c) and (d) Various scheduled airlines have been coordinated from time to time for training of their pilots for using ILS Cat-II and IIIA systems. Airlines are also insisted upon to have their training Captains authorised/ trained for Cat-II & IIIA operations so that these training Captains, in turn, can train maximum number of pilots for Cat-II & IIIA operations to improve the operational efficiency during poor visibility conditions. Indian Airlines and Air India have trained 49 and 55 pilots in Cat-IIIA, 20 and 11 pilots trained in IIIB and 171 and 142 pilots trained for Cat-II operations respectively. Ministry of Civil Aviation has recently reviewed the Fog Preparedness with all the concerned agencies. Airlines have been directed to step up training programmes of pilots on Cat-II and Cat-III operation.